

INFORMATION LETTER

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NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

For Members
Only

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M-81 Restrictions Explained

The Administrator of Conservation Order M-81 has informed the Association that he will write the can companies stating that the 10 percent monthly packing quota limitation does not apply to apple juice, cherry juice, nectars, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, celery juice, chard, mushrooms, onions, rhubarb and turnips. This restriction was inadvertently retained in the April 23 issue of the order, the intention being to remove the monthly quota limitation on all seasonal and perishable commodities. In addition, the can companies will be informed that the 1941-42 season or the 1945-46 season has been established as the quota period for sauerkraut, instead of the calendar years as in the order.

All processed (canned, preserved and frozen) berries and berry products including fountain fruits but *not* cranberries and cranberry products, are suspended from price control for an indefinite period, effective May 1.

ODT late Thursday ordered a general embargo on railroad freight shipments with certain exceptions, and a 25 percent reduction in passenger service by coal burning locomotives, effective May 10. The action, which was taken as a result of the coal strike, will not restrict the movement of foodstuffs, including canned foods.

Full details will be released soon concerning a program under which food processors will be able to acquire equipment necessary to house and feed approximately 20,000 migrant laborers. Joint action of USDA, WAA, and CPA is making the program possible. Estimated needs of the program are based on information supplied the N.C.A. by State and local canner associations.

The Bureau of Customs announced Thursday that the tariff-rate quota of 15,000,000 pounds of fish, entitled to entry from Canada during 1946, has been increased to 20,380,724 pounds.

Planning Committee to Meet

President Fred A. Stare has called a meeting of the N. C. A. Planning Committee for May 19 at the Association's headquarters. The group will meet one day prior to the OPA Canned Fruit and Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee, which has been called in session May 20 as reported in last week's INFORMATION LETTER. The Planning Committee meeting will be the first since the Atlantic City Convention.

Foremost on the agenda for the forthcoming meeting is a discussion of the proposed 1946 OPA pricing program for canned fruits and vegetables and other canned foods, and the USDA's 1946 designated pricing program for canning crops. Other topics to be discussed are the critical situation with regard to the tin container supply, as well as other scarce commodities needed for the 1946 canning operations, principally, label paper and sugar, and the outlook for obtaining sufficient labor and cannery housing.

The Planning Committee meeting, the first of a series of important Association conferences, will be followed by a one-day session of the Administrative Council on May 21, and a two-day meeting of the Board of Directors on May 22 and 23.

Alleviation of Tight Tinplate Situation Is Dependent on the Early Settlement of Coal Strike

The Association is constantly urging Federal agencies and officials to ensure an adequate supply of tinplate for the 1946 packs. In an effort to accomplish this, all persons in position to exert any influence or control of the situation have been contacted and the matter was carried this week to the highest officials in Government. Assurances have been given Association representatives that the Government will grant full consideration to domestic tinplate needs. Settlement of the current coal strike, however, must be effected before any success can be realized.

The Association is advised that the steel industry is fully aware of the critical food situation and is making every effort to maintain tinplate production at the highest possible level and to give it precedence over all other steel production. The Tinplate Industry Advisory Committee of the Civilian Production Administration is scheduled to meet on May 7 to consider tin mill production and Direction 9 to Conservation Order M-21. Direction 9 as issued on March 1, 1946, requires producers of tin mill products to schedule up to 85 percent of their monthly deliveries for the manufacture of cans and closures for products bearing the "A" priority in Order M-81. Please turn to page 192, See N. C. A. Tin Committee.

N.C.A. Tin Committee

Members of the staff, as well as the Chairman of the N.C.A. Tin Committee have maintained daily touch with the situation with a view also of assuring that exports of tinplate shall not be permitted to interfere with the adequacy of supply of metal for the industry's packs, and have been informed that April 26 was the deadline set by CPA for issuance of export licenses for shipments during the second quarter of 1946.

No inter-departmental discussions so far have been held concerning third and fourth quarter allocations, it is reported, since any conferences now would be abortive before the outcome of existing coal strike negotiations is known.

Small quantities have been shipped to Belgium, the Netherlands and Denmark—mostly "carry-overs" from 1945 allotments, but so far none of the 1946 allocations have been shipped to these countries, it is reported.

Turkish Letters of Credit

Before a letter of credit for imports into Turkey can be obtained, evidence must be supplied that the merchandise is either ready for shipment or will be available in time to meet the contract dates, according to reports received by the Office of International Trade, Department of Commerce. The new ruling was made by the Turkish Ministry of Commerce.

Citrus Oils Export Status

Citrus oils other than lemon—lemon oil already being under general license to Group K destinations—have been removed from the Positive list and placed on general license for exportation to all destinations in Group K, the U. S. Department of Commerce has announced.

Date for Chinese Registration

The Chinese Government has extended the time for registration of foreign firms in China to the end of June, 1946, the Office of International Trade, Department of Commerce, has announced. The date originally set for the registration of foreign firms was the end of March, 1946. The extension was granted in response to numerous requests from foreign merchants. Communications between China and foreign countries are still so slow that it would be difficult to obtain the documents required for registra-

tion before the end of March, it was stated.

All foreign firms engaged in business in China on the last day of June, 1946, must register on or before that date in order to receive an authorization to continue business operations there. Foreign firms desiring to establish a business in China after that date will be required to register at the time of establishing an office in China, and must have authorization before starting operations.

USDA to Continue Cash Food Buying for Foreign Countries

The Department of Agriculture announced on May 1 that, because of the world-wide food crisis, it would continue to make food purchases for foreign governments after July 1, 1946, to supply countries whose sources of food have been radically dislocated as a result of the war. Although the Department continues to support the policy of returning for food procurement export to regular commercial channels, the current critical supply situation has made it necessary to continue government purchasing. Without such action food could not be obtained by many claimant countries for export. In addition production plans for many food industries would be without the guidance of forward procurement schedules, USDA said.

The Department plans to confine this type of purchases to staple commodities currently in short supply such as meat, wheat, beans, peas, rice, corn, fats and oils, lard, soybeans, dairy products, sugar, and canned fish. It is the intention of the Department to continue its procurement activities on these commodities only for the duration of the shortage. As soon as the supplies of food commodities become sufficiently plentiful, procurement will be returned to private channels.

Purchases for foreign claimants will continue to be made through the Production and Marketing Administration's procurement facilities upon receipt of cash deposits or an irrevocable letter of credit. All procurement expense, including transportation, warehousing, as well as the administrative costs incurred by PMA, are paid for by the foreign countries.

Since the plan's inception, participating foreign countries have deposited approximately \$318,000,000 with the Department for the purchases of American farm products. The major countries making such purchases will probably be the United Kingdom, France, Netherlands, the Netherlands East Indies, Belgium, and India.

Philippine Trade Is Recovering Very Slowly, Report Reveals

Trade in agricultural products between the Philippine Islands and the United States has evinced only a piecemeal recovery since the end of the war, the U. S. Department of Commerce reported this week. Officials attribute this to the inflation and agrarian disorganization which are preventing the Philippines from producing crops for export, and from buying those available from this country.

During 1945, the Islands exported only \$791,000 worth of copra, abaca and rubber to the U. S., compared with prewar exports averaging \$92,000,000 annually. Imports of foodstuffs from this country were valued at \$16,000,000 dollars. Total imports were only about half of prewar volume.

Imports of foodstuffs and other essential consumer goods are helping to lower the cost of living in the Philippines, and making it easier for the Islands to stage an economic recovery. However, recent reports from Manila indicate that unloading and distribution of supplies have been hampered by limited port facilities, and that transportation and communication facilities are far from adequate.

Coal Strike Causing Fertilizer Shortage, NFA Warns Farmers

The National Fertilizer Association warned this week that supplies for fertilizer for American farms will be seriously reduced if the present coal strike is prolonged and if exports of fertilizer to foreign countries are increased in the coming months.

Output of ammonium sulphate, one of the basic fertilizer materials, and a by-product of coking coal, has already been sharply curtailed as a result of the coal strike. Prolongation of the strike will force a complete shut-down of ammonium sulphate production and will also close down most of the synthetic nitrogen fixation plants. Also, the recent steel strike is estimated to have cut production of ammonium sulphate by 124,000 tons.

Increased foreign shipments, the NFA said, would add to the industry's continued difficulties in securing materials, transportation and labor for meeting domestic requirements.

Ethiopia Drops Import Licenses

Import licenses are no longer required by Ethiopia for importation of goods, according to the U. S. Department of Commerce.

USES Adopts New Agreement Form for Labor Recruitment

The U. S. Employment Service has developed a new employment agreement form for use by food processors and other food industries in recruiting inter-area labor. The agreement is not a prerequisite to engaging in inter-area recruitment or in taking advantage of the facilities of USES, but the Service believes that "its use will assure employers of an adequate labor supply throughout the producing season, reduce labor turnover and lost man-days of employment, and develop a stable and reliable labor supply upon which employers can depend each year that it is necessary to go outside the immediate vicinity of their plants for labor."

Among the terms of the agreement, which can be adjusted to include provisions employers usually make for recruiting labor, are the following conditions:

1. That the employer shall afford the employee opportunity for employment during a minimum stated period.
2. That during such period the employer "shall afford the worker an opportunity to work not less than a number of hours equal to 75 percent of the minimum total number of prescribed working hours during the period of employment. For the purpose of computing the minimum guarantee provided for in this agreement, a prescribed work week shall be not less than 40 hours; but hours of work in excess of 10 hours in any 24-hour period offered by the employer but refused by the worker shall not be credited towards satisfaction of such minimum guarantees. The number of hours worked or hours of work offered shall be calculated solely on a straight-time basis."
3. That the employee shall be paid at the termination of the period of employment the minimum hourly rate of pay agreed upon for each hour the employee fails to afford the employee an opportunity to work as guaranteed in the agreement.

USES suggests that canners immediately arrange to discuss their labor requirements and the possible use of the agreement with the local USES office serving their area.

Freight Rate Hearing Set

The Interstate Commerce Commission has scheduled a preliminary hearing May 6 to determine whether to grant the railroads' petition to put the proposed 25 percent freight rate increase into effect on May 15 in advance of the formal hearing on the merits of the increase proposal. In addition, the Commission has reopened consid-

eration of the railroads' previous petitions for a freight rate increase averaging 4.7 percent, which was suspended through the Office of Price Administration's intervention in the spring of 1943 for six months beginning May 15, 1943. Subsequent extensions of the rate increase suspension saved the government and other shippers during the war an estimated \$325,000,000 annually.

Congress Summary

Legislative action of interest to canners during the past week included continuation of Senate debate on the proposed \$3,750,000,000 loan to the United Kingdom, hearings by the Senate Banking Committee on extension of the Price Control and Stabilization Acts, the President's signing on April 30 of the measures providing for future trade relations with the Philippines and repayment for war damages in the Islands, and announcement that the House Labor Committee will meet in executive session on May 6 to consider proposals to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Included among the proposals pending before the House Labor Committee is the recently passed Senate bill that would raise the minimum wage rate to 65 cents an hour. A summary of the provisions of the Senate bill (S. 1349) may be found on page 166 of the April 13 issue of the INFORMATION LETTER.

Cameron and Payne Get Back from Citrus Labeling Meetings

Dr. E. J. Cameron, Director of the N.C.A. Washington Laboratories, and Happer Payne, Director of Labeling, this week completed the second of two southern meetings which were called to discuss labeling terms and standards for citrus products. The first of these meetings was held with the Standards Committee of the Florida Canners Association in Lakeland, Fla., on April 12. The second took place in New Orleans, La., on April 25-26, and was attended by a small group representative of the three major citrus canning areas.

In the discussion concerning labeling, the objective was to arrive at appropriate descriptive terms for citrus products, and the N.C.A. Labeling Committee will make recommendations in this respect. Aside from this, there was an exchange of views on considerations relating to future standards for citrus products and it is expected that a committee will be formed to undertake preliminary work in this direction.

PMA Committees Broadened to Aid Farm Marketing Programs

Administrator Robert H. Shields of the Production and Marketing Administration announced this week a number of personnel assignments and also a change in the designation of the "State committees" which assist in PMA program administration in each State. The State committees, which have previously been known as the State Agricultural Conservation Committees, are now designated the State PMA Committees. The change in designation is in line with previously announced policy of broadening the authority of State offices for centralized program administration.

Commenting on the change in State committee designation, Administrator Shields said:

"It will also be our policy, in making new or replacement appointments to the State committees, to select men who in addition to being farm producers have also had very definite experience in other phases of agricultural operations, including distribution, marketing, and processing of agricultural products. This will broaden the background of the committees for assistance in the over-all administration of all programs which are assigned to the State offices. We shall also work toward the appointment of State PMA Directors who will qualify for and serve as Chairmen of the State PMA Committees.

"To make State committee action more representative of the opinions and experience of all factors in agriculture, we plan to make greater use of subcommittees or advisory committees. Food industry people, the agricultural colleges and various other interested groups, along with farm producers, will be represented on these advisory committees. We intend to see that the State committee set-up is broadened and strengthened in every way possible to assist in efficient administration."

Freight Car Loadings to Drop

Freight car loadings in the second quarter of 1946 are expected to be 4.2 percent below those in the same period in 1945, according to estimates just compiled by the 13 Shippers Advisory Boards and made public this week. On the basis of those estimates, freight car loadings of the 30 principal commodities will be 7,425,689 cars in the second quarter of 1946, compared with 7,753,406 actual car loadings for the same commodities in the corresponding period in the preceding year. Five of the 13 Shippers Advisory Boards estimate an increase in carloadings for the second quarter of 1946 compared with 1945 and eight estimate decreases.

JAY E. FITZGERALD RETIRES

Terminates 22 Constructive Years of Editorial and Administrative Service to N.C.A.

Jay E. Fitzgerald, who has been on the National Canners Association staff since 1924, retired on May 1, terminating 22 years of service in both editorial and administrative capacity. Mr. Fitzgerald was an Assistant Secretary during his entire term with the Association and was Director of the Information Division for 21 consecutive years.

He came into first contact with the canning industry in 1916 while Chief of the Editorial Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce through the editing and preparation of foreign trade bulletins dealing with canned foods. In his government capacity he attended the 1917 and 1918 annual conventions of the Association at Cleveland and Boston. His marked ability in statistical and editorial work was recognized by canner-members and officers of the Association and for several years prior to joining the staff he served as a consulting editor in the preparation of numerous N.C.A. bulletins and reports, among them being studies on canned food containers and heat penetration. Thus he came to the Association with several years' background of canning industry knowledge.

As Director of the N.C.A. Information Division, Mr. Fitzgerald vastly improved and systematized the production and format of the weekly *INFORMATION LETTER*. It was under his administration of the Division that the *LETTER* was changed from a mimeographed bulletin to a printed publication. Canner-members have recognized and paid tribute to the high standards of factual accuracy and reliability Mr. Fitzgerald consistently maintained in his supervision of the *LETTER*, and he won the respect and confidence of government officials through his fixed policy of non-violation of release dates and avoidance of the publication of rumors, conjectures or opinions.

In addition to his supervision and development of the *INFORMATION LETTER*, Mr. Fitzgerald, during his whole Association career, edited all N.C.A. publications, prepared publicity material, and played a leading part in practically every Association activity involving the writing or preparation of material for publication.

For 10 years prior to the establishment of the Association's Division of Statistics, he contributed to the development of the N.C.A. policies on statistical service which were eventu-

ally crystallized into the official division for this work. Other important contributions he made to the industry and the Association were his preparation of practically all the statistical work done in the formulation of the canning industry code during NRA days, and his participation in the writing of briefs on tariff and other legislative matters affecting canned foods.

In the latter years of his service most of Mr. Fitzgerald's time was devoted to various administrative and special assignments connected with various phases of the Association's activities.

Mr. Fitzgerald is a Pennsylvanian by birth and was graduated from Indiana University in 1901 with an A.B. degree, his college career having been interrupted by service in the Spanish-American War. After graduation he entered newspaper work in his home town—Clarion, Pa.—and while there was on the faculty of the State Normal School, in charge of the English Department. From 1904 to 1909 he was engaged in newspaper work in Butler, Pa., and in East Liverpool and Cincinnati, Ohio. He entered the government service in 1909 as an editor in the Department of Commerce, later becoming chief of the Editorial Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. In 1918 he joined the Research Department of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, in Washington, and remained with that organization until he entered N.C.A. service in 1924.

New York Canners Participate in Personnel Problem Meetings

More than a hundred canners, representing about 35 firms, participated in three two-day sessions on "Personnel Problems in the Canning Industry," held during April under joint auspices of the New York State School of Industrial and Labor Relations and the Association of New York State Canners, Inc. The conferences were held at Rochester, April 8 and 9; Buffalo, April 10 and 11; and Syracuse, April 12 and 13.

Following are some of the subjects on the program: "Management's Responsibility for Good Personnel Administration"; "Selecting and Training of Foremen and Workers"; "Safety Problems in Canning Plants"; "Job Classification"; "What to do When Employees Ask for Collective Bargaining"; "Grievances Arising in Canning Plants"; "State and Federal Legislation Affecting the Industry"; "Relations of the Canning Industry with Farmers and the Community."

Canners on the conference staff included: Herbert E. Apple, Jr., Jack Cogswell and Ed Kirk, Birds Eye-Snyder Division of General Foods Corporation; Edward Dixon, Comstock Canning Corporation; Stuart Hemingway, H. C. Hemingway & Company; Don Ingersoll, Halstead Canning Company; Lou Long, Red Wing Company; John Lytle, Hills Bros. Company; W. Stanley Macklein, Curtice Bros. Company; George Pierce, Olney & Carpenter, Inc.; and H. D. Wendell, of the Loudon Division of Standard Brands.

Wisconsin Canners Safety Institute Held at Milwaukee

Wisconsin canners safety institute for plant managers, superintendents and foremen, sponsored by the Wisconsin Canners Association, Industrial Commission of Wisconsin, and Wisconsin Council of Safety, was held April 30 at the Shroeder Hotel at Milwaukee. The program follows:

Morning Session

Presiding—N. J. Lau, President, Wisconsin Canners Association, Clyman; "Opening Remarks," F. W. Braun, President, Wisconsin Council of Safety, Wausau; "Relation of Safety to Canning Company Profits," Voyta Wrabetz, Chairman, Industrial Commission of Wisconsin, Madison; "What Can Safety Organization in a Canning Accomplish?" R. H. Winters, The Larsen Co., Green Bay; John H. Miller, Fall River Canning Company, Fall River; and "Dermatitis and Other Health Problems in the Canning Industry," Harry F. Foerster, M.D., Milwaukee.

Afternoon Session

Presiding—Harry J. Burezyk, Commissioner, Industrial Commission of Wisconsin, Madison; "Safety Training Methods," Arthur J. Matthias, Supervisor, Training and Field Instruction, Wisconsin Vocational and Adult Schools, Wauwatosa; "Practical Application of Employee Training Plans in Canneries," Arnie H. Hakala, California Packing Corp., Rochelle, Illinois; "Main Causes of Injuries in Wisconsin Canneries," O. A. Fried, Chief Statistician, Industrial Commission of Wisconsin, Madison; and "Safety Devices for Canning Plants," F. A. Fredrickson, Chief Factory Inspector, Industrial Commission of Wisconsin, Madison.

The Wisconsin Canners Safety Committee is composed of the following: Chairman, J. H. Miller, Fall River Canning Co., Fall River; Marvin Kell, Central Wisconsin Canneries, Beaver Dam; F. L. Friday, Markesan Canning Co., Markesan; W. C. Schorer, Sauk City Canning Co., Sauk City; G. F. Rolloff, Fuhrmann Canning Co., Appleton.

An Employer Cannot Reduce His Liability for Unpaid Overtime Compensation and Liquidated Damages under the Wage-Hour Act

An employer cannot reduce his liability for unpaid overtime compensation and liquidated damages under the Wage-Hour Act by a compromise settlement with his employees, according to a recent U. S. Supreme Court decision.

In the case of *D. A. Schulte, Inc. v. Gangi* decided by the Supreme Court on April 20, an employer had failed to pay overtime to certain building service and maintenance employees. After the decision by the Supreme Court in the case of *Kirschbaum v. Walling* on June 1, 1942, holding that service and maintenance employees in buildings occupied by manufacturers producing for interstate commerce were covered by the Wage-Hour Act, the employees made claims for unpaid overtime compensation and liquidated damages. The employer denied that the employees were covered by the Act, but under threat of suit he agreed to pay the overtime compensation claimed by the employees in exchange for a written release from all further obligation under this claim.

After signing the release, the employees sued for liquidated damages under Section 16(b) of the Act. The primary issue in the case was whether a settlement of claims for overtime pay and liquidated damages in a case of disputed coverage was permitted under the Fair Labor Standards Act. The Supreme Court had already held in *Brooklyn Savings Bank v. O'Neil*, decided on April 9, 1945, that employees cannot waive their right to liquidated damages under Section 16(b) of the Act where there is no dispute as to coverage of the Act or as to the amount due. (See INFORMATION LETTER for April 21, 1945, page 8590.) In the present case the Court followed the reasoning in the *O'Neil* case and held that Section 16(b) of the Act, under which an employer is liable to his employees for unpaid wages and an equal amount as liquidated damages, was intended both to provide compensation to the injured employee for the retention of his pay and to aid in the enforcement of the Act. The Court felt that to allow reduction by compromise of the damages fixed by Congress would thwart the policy of the Act of securing prompt payment of minimum wages to employees. The Court held that an employer's liability for unpaid overtime and liquidated damages cannot be reduced by a settlement agreement with his employees, even though the settlement arises out of a genuine controversy as to the coverage of the Act.

A dissenting opinion, written by Justice Frankfurter and concurred in by Justice Burton and the late Chief Justice Stone, held that there was no evidence of Congress' intention to prohibit the settlement of a genuine controversy over coverage of the Act.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The foregoing was prepared by the Association's Counsel for the information of those members who may have similar situations arise under the Wage and Hour law.

OPA Increases Ceiling Prices of Imported Spanish Olives

To offset increases in the cost of imported Spanish olives, increases in processors' maximum prices ranging from 25 to 50 percent, depending upon the type of olive, were announced this week by the Office of Price Administration through the issuance of Supplement 18 to Food Products Regulation 1, effective May 6. At the same time, OPA established importers' dollar-and-cent maximum buying prices for green Spanish olives. The action establishes dollar-and-cent maximum prices which will permit the industry as a whole to receive profits at least equal to the return received during a representative peace-time period.

It also establishes dollar-and-cent import prices which average approximately 30 percent above the Spanish minimum prices. The new import ceilings are well below the present market prices of imported olives. This spread between the minimum Spanish prices and the import prices is ample to cover normal price variations, OPA said.

Processors' dollar-and-cent maximum prices for first quality olives in practically all container sizes, varieties and olive sizes are given in the regulation. Processors determine their own maximum prices for sales of second quality olives by applying the same dollar-and-cent differentials as existed in their March, 1942, maximum prices for first and second quality.

Dollar-and-cent maximum prices per gallon for bulk sales of imported green Spanish olives also are included in the regulation. Furthermore, differentials which were customary in the industry, are provided for olives repacked in smaller container sizes other than consumer size containers.

Can Shipments Decrease

Total shipments of metal cans during February, 1946, showed a 27 percent decline from the January ship-

ments, according to a report released this week by the Bureau of the Census. These figures are based on metal can shipments expressed in terms of the weight of steel consumed in the manufacture of cans shipped.

During February, metal can shipments amounted to 132,530 short tons as compared with 181,396 tons shipped during January. This decrease was largely caused by unsettled labor conditions in the metal can fabricating and shortages of steel. However, the February, 1946, shipments were still substantially above the February shipments during 1943 and 1944, although below the total for this month of 1945. Almost 50 percent of the decline was in shipments of fruit and vegetable cans. The remainder of the drop was about equally divided between other types of food cans and nonfood cans.

Approximately three-fourths of all cans shipped during February, or 101,083 tons were to be used for the packing of food products. Of these shipments, fruit and vegetable cans amounted to 37,133 tons, the largest single category of cans shipped. Shipments of cans for other than food products amounted to 31,447 tons.

Australian Fruit Crop Larger

Australia's deciduous fruit output for 1945-46 will probably exceed that of 1944-45, because of better conditions existing in the growing periods, *Foreign Crops and Markets*, weekly publication on foreign agriculture published by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, reported this week. Dry conditions existed in the principal fruit growing districts in September and October, but rains at the end of October and November were of immense value to stone fruits. Australia fruit acreage, which reached its maximum of 230,000 acres in 1937-38 and decreased gradually to 210,000 acres in 1942-43, has had a gradual increase since then, reaching 216,000 acres in 1944-45, the publication stated.

Apples are the most important non-citrus fruit grown in Australia. Acreage in 1944-45 was 88,000 acres, 41 percent of the total acreage under all types of orchard and other fruit production (excluding citrus and vine). Production for the 1945-46 season is indicated to be about 11 million bushels, compared with 9.3 million (revised) in the preceding year and is exceeded only by the crop of 12.7 million bushels in 1943-44. Tasmania, the most important apple-growing State, accounts for about half of the total production.

Effects of Rusting Cans in Wooden and Fibreboard Boxes

A report has been issued by the Canadian Forest Products Laboratory at Vancouver, B. C., summarizing results of an extensive study made on the effect of rusting of cans in wooden and fibreboard boxes. The following is a summary of the report:

(1) In connection with the storage of cans in boxes prior to shipment, rusting of the cans stored in wooden cases increased directly as the moisture content of the wood increased. Cans packed in wood below 17 percent moisture content, if they do rust, will rust only slightly. It is now the general practice in British Columbia to ensure that the moisture content of box shoo material for canned goods does not exceed 16 percent.

(2) There is definite indication that the moisture content of the wood, and not the wood species used, is the important factor in the rusting of cans.

(3) Condensation damage to canned goods in transit is largely a seasonal problem and appears to be generally confined to cargoes loaded during cold weather and later exposed to warm, moist air.

(4) Laboratory experiments regarding lacquering show that (a) plain cans with no protective coating on the tinplate showed the greatest amount of rust damage; (b) cans with enamel tops and bottoms showed 58 percent less rust damage than plain cans; and (c) completely lacquered cans showed 86 percent less rust damage than plain cans.

(5) During the progress of the investigations it was found that on the whole there was less rust damage through condensation on the sides of cans than on their tops. When exposure to condensation is likely in the case of canned goods stored in docks and warehouses, therefore, storage of cases on their sides to prevent "pooling" of condensation on the tops of the cans may prevent or reduce rust damage. Fibre cartons will seldom stand up under this method of storage.

(6) In an experiment with immersing canned goods in sea water, when such merchandise was later bulk-piled, it sustained much more severe rust damage than when free air circulation was allowed around each case through the use of dunnage or stickers.

(7) The growing use of dehumidifiers on board ship and in warehouses will probably solve eventually the problem of rusting of canned goods.

Copies of the above report may be secured by writing to the Department of Mines and Resources, Lands, Parks and Forests Branch, Dominion Forest Service, Forest Products Laboratories, Vancouver Branch, Vancouver, B. C., and requesting Mimeo 100-7 "Rusting of Cans in Wooden and Fibreboard Boxes," by H. W. Eades.

Forthcoming Meetings

May 6-8—American Spice Trade Association, 40th Annual Meeting, Hotel Astor, New York, N. Y.

May 7-8—National Cannery Association Sanitation Conference, County Court House, Sacramento, Calif.

May 9-10—National Cannery Association Sanitation Conference, U.S.O. Ball Room, Merced, Calif.

May 13-14—National Cannery Association Sanitation Conference, Civic Auditorium, San Jose, Calif.

May 19—National Cannery Association, Planning Committee Meeting, Association Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

May 21—National Cannery Association, Administrative Council Meeting, Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D. C.

May 22-23—National Cannery Association, Board of Directors Meeting, Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D. C.

June 2-4—Flavoring Extract Manufacturers Association, 36th Annual Convention, Drake Hotel, Chicago.

June 3—Michigan Cannery Association, Spring Meeting, Traverse City.

June 17—Mayonnaise and Salad Dressing Manufacturers Association, Palmer House, Chicago, Ill.

June 17-19—Grocery Manufacturers of America, Mid-year Meeting, Shawnee-on-the-Delaware, Pa.

June 20—National Pickle Packers Association, Mid-year Meeting, Bismarck Hotel, Chicago, Ill.

July 10-20—Indiana Cannery Association, Technicians' School, Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind.

December 4-5—Tri-State Packers Association, Annual Fall Convention, Benjamin Franklin Hotel, Philadelphia, Pa.

December 10-11—Ohio Cannery Association, Annual Convention, Deshler-Wallick Hotel, Columbus.

R.S.P. Cherry Order Ended

The U. S. Department of Agriculture terminated, effective April 29, War Food Order 133, which required processors to set aside 100 percent of all the hot packed and frozen cherries processed in 1945. The termination of the order means that all red sour cherries which have been set aside pursuant to the provisions of the WFO 133, and which are not sold or contracted to be sold to a government agency at the effective time of this termination, are released from all restrictions of the order.

WFO 133 was issued in June, 1945, to insure the fulfillment of red sour cherry requirements for government agencies. Since these needs have been met, the set-aside order is no longer necessary, the USDA said.

Wholesale Grocers Stocks of Evaporated; Condensed Milk

Canned evaporated milk stocks held by wholesale grocers on March 31 were the lowest for any quarterly date since 1942, the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported this week. Stocks of canned condensed milk held by wholesale grocers were likewise at very low levels. Many wholesalers reported their stocks completely depleted and others indicate that they were voluntarily rationing their supplies to stores and other outlets.

Stocks of canned evaporated milk held by 604 wholesale grocers on March 31 were 17,492,000 pounds, compared with 24,257,000 pounds a year earlier. The same 604 firms reported 167,000 pounds of condensed milk on hand at the end of March, whereas they had 502,000 pounds on the same date last year. Total stocks of both condensed and evaporated milk in cans held by 604 wholesalers reporting on March 31 were 17,659,000 pounds, compared with 24,750,000 pounds on hand a year earlier. Comparisons based on firms reporting for March 31 both this year and last show a 27 percent decline in the stocks of canned evaporated milk and a 67 percent decline in the stocks of canned sweetened condensed milk.

Food Store Sales Set Record

During the first quarter of 1946 the Nation's retail stores enjoyed their biggest business in history with estimated total sales reaching an annual rate of \$90,000,000,000, the Department of Commerce announced this week. This represents a gain of 20 percent over the sales of the first quarter of 1945.

Grocery and other food store sales showed the largest single increase since V-J Day, reaching an annual rate of \$23,200,000,000 during the first quarter of 1946 and accounting for about one-fourth of the Nation's total retail sales gain, the Department of Commerce said.

Miss Smith Attends Radio Meet

The National Cannery Association was represented by Katherine R. Smith of the Home Economics Division, at the sixteenth annual meeting of the Institute for Education by Radio, May 3 to 6 in Columbus, Ohio.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide joint discussion by broadcasters, educators and civic leaders of the problems of educational broadcasting.

Fruit and Vegetable Output and Exports from Trinidad

The Co-operative Citrus Growers' Association, processors of the bulk of Trinidad's B. W. I. citrus for export, reports that it used between 160,000 and 170,000 field crates of grapefruit (90 pounds to the crate) during the 1945 season, according to the U. S. Department of Commerce. The Association estimates that 15,000 crates of grapefruit were produced and consumed locally and that total production approximated 180,000 crates or about 7,263 tons compared with 1944 production of 5,409 tons. An increase in production is expected during the 1946 season.

Trinidad's grapefruit juices were shipped during 1945 in appreciable quantities, chiefly to Canada, which annually takes about 200,000 gallons, and the British West Indies which import approximately 40,000 gallons.

Orange production is estimated at 18,000 crates (100 pounds to the crate). Between 20,000 and 25,000 crates of oranges may be produced in 1946.

Lime production in 1945 is believed to have reached 75,000 barrels, or 5,000 barrels less than 1944 yields.

Intensive planting programs already under way by government and private growers are expected to show marked changes in citrus acreage within the next 5 years.

Production of plantains and bananas in 1945 is estimated at 45,000 tons.

Green vegetables were well supplied throughout the year with yields abundant for domestic needs and to supply export markets in the British Caribbean area and ship's stores with 213,352 pounds.

California Sanitarians to Meet

Dr. J. Russell Esty, Director of the National Cannery Association Western Research Laboratories, has announced a series of two-day sanitation conferences for California canners to be held beginning May 7 at Sacramento, May 9 at Merced, and May 13 at San Jose. Dates and locations of other conferences will be announced later.

Mexican Pineapple Crop Larger

Mexican pineapple production for 1946 is now forecast at 2,677,000 crates of 70 pounds, 11 percent more than 1945 production of 2,405,000 crates, and probably the largest crop on record, the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced this week in its publication,

Foreign Crops and Markets. Production in Loma Bonita, Oaxaca, and in Isla, Veracruz, the two largest producing regions, is estimated at 740,000 and 603,000 crates, respectively, compared with 653,000 and 539,000 in 1945.

New plantings have been made in Veracruz and still larger plantings are expected to be made in 1947, indicating possible increases in production in 1947 and 1948.

Quantities available for export during 1946 are estimated at around a million crates, compared with 320,000 crates exported during 1945, almost all of which came to the United States.

Oregon Beet Circular Issued

Production of beets for canning in Oregon has increased steadily since 1919, with a pack of 3,608 cases recorded for that year. In 1944 the pack was 1,052,800 cases, while the acreage that year, estimated at 2,000 acres, was about one-tenth of the total U. S. acreage.

Information about the growing of this crop in Oregon for canning is contained in Extension Circular 463, published by the Oregon State College at Corvallis. The circular is entitled "Growing Cannery Beets" and discusses the relation of temperature and soils to color, quality, and yield per acre. Time and rate of seeding, cultivation and irrigation, as well as protection from disease are other subjects discussed in this circular.

Canned Poultry Statistics

The quantity of poultry canned or used in canning during March totaled 11,145,000 pounds compared with 18,746,000 pounds in March, 1945, or 13,261,000 pounds during a corresponding period in 1944 and 10,951,000 pounds in March, 1943. The poultry canned during March consisted of 10,630,000 pounds of chicken and 515,000 pounds of turkey. The following table shows the quantities canned by months during the above periods:

	1944	1945	1946
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
January.....	13,191,000	15,343,000	13,020,000
February.....	13,086,000	10,390,000	11,402,000
March.....	13,261,000	18,746,000	11,145,000
April.....	10,564,000	18,392,000
May.....	10,036,000	20,011,000
June.....	11,294,000	14,401,000
July.....	7,839,000	7,764,000
August.....	6,701,000	8,034,000
September....	6,476,000	4,759,000
October.....	10,432,000	5,815,000
November....	15,449,000	8,972,000
December....	12,852,000	7,960,000
Total.....	131,801,000	146,587,000	35,567,000

New USDA Peach Standards

Two new standards—"U. S. Standards for Fresh Freestone Peaches for Canning" and "U. S. Standards for Fresh Freestone Peaches for Freezing or Pulping"—have been issued by the Production and Marketing Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture, effective April 17. The new standards supersede those in effect since June 4, 1942.

U. S. Grades No. 1 and No. 2 are described with adequate definitions and canners who contemplate buying fresh peaches on a grade basis may obtain copies of the standards from the Fruit and Vegetables Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., or from the Federal-State Inspection Service State offices.

Cabbage Seed Treatment

Cabbage seed treatment alone may not be sufficient to protect the grower against black rot infection in the field, according to a recent article in "Farm Research," published by the New York Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva. In order to guard against this disease, the article states, the grower must adhere to the following fundamental precautionary measures:

All seed should be hot-water treated; seedbed sanitation must be practiced, the seedbed being planted on disease-free soil that has not been in cabbage or related susceptible plants for at least 3 years (healthy plants may be obtained from beds that have been carefully treated with corrosive sublimate or calomel); for field plantings, a three- or four-year crop rotation must be practiced; and no cabbage refuse or disease-infested manure should be applied to a field which is to be planted to cabbage in the next three years.

Kentucky Lima Bean Varieties

According to the latest annual report of the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station, the two new varieties of large-seeded lima beans recently introduced by the U. S. Department of Agriculture—Early Market and Fordhook 242—were tested at the Station with the Standard Fordhook.

Early Market matured quickly, produced a large part of its crop early in the season (but the total yield was about the same as Fordhook), and in general appeared to be a highly promising early variety.

Fordhook 242, a main-crop type, was more vigorous than Fordhook and about 50 percent more productive.

USDA ANNOUNCES PLAN TO PURCHASE CANNED FISH LOAF

The Association has been advised by the U. S. Department of Agriculture that the Commodity Credit Corporation plans to purchase a quantity of canned ground fish loaf, and that offers for the sale of this commodity may now be submitted. Text of the announcement follows:

Offers must be submitted on Form 8CO-78 in an original and three signed copies and must be mailed to Special Commodities Branch, Production and Marketing Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., at any time prior to June 15, 1946. Such offers shall be subject to acceptance by CCC in whole or in part by telegram filed at Washington, D. C., not later than midnight (EST) of the fifteenth day after date of the offer. A COPY OF THE OFFER FORM EXECUTED BY CCC WILL NOT BE RETURNED TO THE CONTRACTOR; THEREFORE CONTRACTOR SHOULD PREPARE AND RETAIN A COPY OF HIS OFFER FOR FUTURE REFERENCE.

The Food and Drug Administration has expressed the opinion that this product would not be acceptable in interstate commerce. No objection will be made, however, to the exportation of canned ground fish loaf, produced in accordance with the specification set forth herein, to a foreign country in accordance with requirements of section 801 (d) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, approved June 25, 1938, as amended.

Additional copies of the Offer of Sale Form will be forwarded from this office on request. Further information with respect to this program may be obtained from M. W. Waller, of the Washington Office, whose telephone is REpublic 4142, Extension 3550.

Terms and Conditions

In submitting an offer to sell, the terms and conditions of this Announcement and those set forth in "Standard Contract Conditions," Form PBT-400, except Articles 6, 9, 22, 23, 24 and 28 thereof, shall become a part of the offer to sell and upon acceptance by the CCC, the offer and acceptance will constitute a valid and binding contract. References to War Food Administration, Office of Marketing Services, and Office of Supply, on Form PBT-400 shall be considered as references to the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Specifications: Fish (fresh or frozen) used in the manufacture of this product shall be sweet and wholesome; shall be the portions of the cleaned fish remaining after removal of fillets and shall be only of species: cod, haddock, hake, pollock, cusk. Entrails shall have been removed and fish shall be practically free from scales. Fish shall be medium finely ground so that the bone, after processing, will be soft and edible. Fish shall be pre-cooked so that the finished product will be reasonably firm and reasonably free from

excessive moisture, and shall be of such consistency as to retain the shape of the can when cooled and opened after final processing. No filler, condiment except salt, liquid or other substance shall be added. Cans shall be sufficiently processed to insure sterility.

Cans shall be filled as full as practicable. The average net content of the No. 300 (300 x 407) can shall be not less than 15 ounces. If larger sizes of cans are used, the net content shall be in the same proportion as the relative size of the can. Cans shall have a vacuum of not less than four inches.

Canning shall be conducted in a sanitary manner and fish shall be canned according to sound commercial practice to produce an edible product.

Packaging: A. Cans: If all or any component part of the cans are manufactured from tin plate lighter than 1.25 hot dipped plate, the inside and outside of such cans or component part shall be enameled. Cans shall be sound and clean, free from rust and serious dents at time of delivery.

B. Shipping Containers: Shipping containers shall be as directed by CCC and shall be cases meeting the requirements of Type V3c, V3s or wirebound wood or nailed wood as defined in Form FSC-1742-E, "Export Packaging Specifications," 80 point, 90 point or 100 point solid fibre or 23-9-23 export type corrugated cases. Corrugated cases may be used only when strapped with flat straps. Cases shall be strapped with one girthwise and one lengthwise metal straps.

C. Labeling: Cans shall be labeled or lithographed with an appropriate commercial label or marking unless otherwise directed by CCC.

D. Marking: Shipping containers shall be marked "For Export" and shall contain such additional markings as may be directed by CCC.

Inspection: The CCC may require that the fish be packed only during the time that a representative of the Production and Marketing Administration or its designee is present and his decisions as to quality, sanitation and edibility will be final. The cost of such inspection and of issuing of certificates of inspection shall be borne by CCC except that in lieu of normal inspection costs, there shall be deducted from the contract price one cent a case on the lots so inspected. If CCC fails to make such a requirement, inspection charges shall be paid in accordance with Article 3 of Form PBT-400. The seller agrees to furnish samples necessary for the inspection of the product without charge to CCC.

New Maine Fish Commissioner

Richard E. Reed has assumed his duties as the new Commissioner of Sea and Shore Fisheries for the State of Maine, succeeding the late Arthur

R. Greenleaf. Mr. Reed, who is descended from a long line of Maine fishermen, has a wide knowledge of that State's fishing industries and has been in intimate contact with the fishermen all along the Maine coast.

Major U. S. Fisheries Show Decided Drop in Production

Production in the major United States fisheries during the first quarter of 1946 was appreciably less than during the same period last year, largely because of a decline in the large pilchard fishery of the Pacific coast and a decrease in landings at New England ports, the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, reported Thursday.

Landings of pilchards or Pacific sardines between January 1 and the closing of the season on February 2 amounted to 43,787 tons, compared with 62,076 tons in 1945.

Quantities of fish landed at the major ports of New England have fallen from about 86,000,000 pounds during the first three months of 1945 to some 63,000,000 pounds this year. The heaviest decline—some 26,000,000 pounds—occurred at Boston, where the large trawlers have been tied up since the first of the year as a result of a labor disagreement. Landings at Gloucester are 4,000,000 pounds under last year's receipts, but a gain of about 4,000,000 pounds was reported at both New Bedford and Portland. Fishing activity on Cape Cod continued at about the same level as in the first quarter of 1945.

The catch of tuna during the first three months of 1946 totaled 22,900,700 pounds compared with 14,280,600 in 1945. The three-month total for Pacific mackerel was 4,388,461 pounds, declining from 5,780,422 pounds last year.

On the Gulf of Mexico, production of shrimp declined from 43,225 barrels during the first quarter of 1945 to 36,078 barrels this year, and oysters declined from 257,220 barrels to 180,601 barrels. Catches of hard crabs and of fresh and salt water fish showed little change compared with last year, totaling 1,076,050 and 1,646,540 pounds respectively.

Receipts of fish at most of the large consuming centers remained at approximately the level of 1945. New York's salt water market received slightly smaller shipments by truck and express but vessel landings increased, giving the market a total of 56,000,000 pounds, compared with 58,000,000 in 1945. Chicago received 17,600,000 pounds of fish, including domestic shipments and imports, or approximately the same

as in 1945. Landings and local receipts of fish at Seattle totaled 6,255,000 pounds in 1946 and 5,187,000 in 1945.

Total holdings of frozen fish and shellfish as of April 1 totaled 83,640,530 pounds, compared with holdings of 39,829,575 pounds on the same date last year. (See INFORMATION LETTER for April 27, page 186.)

USDA Meat Board Report

Meat production under Federal inspection for the week ended April 27 totaled 240,000,000 pounds, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture Meat Board. This production was 9 percent more than the 221,000,000 pounds in the preceding week but 11 percent below the 270,000,000 pounds produced during the corresponding week of last year.

Norwegian Sardine Ceilings Set

Maximum prices have been established for importers' sales of Norwegian 8ild sardines packed in refined herring oil, the Office of Price Administration announced Thursday. The new prices, effective May 7 through the issuance of Order 363 to Order 38, are applicable to all importers and will relieve both OPA and importers from the burden of handling individual applications for ceiling prices, the agency added.

The prices (subject to adjustment for duty) per case (100 3½ oz.), ex dock or warehouse continental United States point or port of entry, duty paid, for sales by importers are listed as follows according to type of pack: Aluminum content—wholesalers and chain stores, \$15.31; independent retailers, \$16.12; and industrial and institutional users, \$16.80. Tin content—wholesalers and chain stores, \$14.35; independent retailers, \$15.11; and industrial and institutional users, \$15.75.

Argentine Corn Crop Small

The Argentine corn crop now being harvested is placed at 149,598,000 bushels, as against an earlier estimate of 200 to 240 million bushels, and probably will mean curtailment of further exports, the U. S. Department of Commerce reports. The 1945 crop was only 117 million bushels, and the 1942-43 production was 76 million, compared with an average of 325 million bushels for the 10 years prior to 1941-42.

Canned Fish Import Figures Given by Federal Trade Commission

For the benefit of fish canner members, the National Canners Association is reproducing the following information reported by the U. S. Tariff Commission showing the development in canning of fishery products in other countries during the war years. Since censorship prevented a public report on importations of canned fish during the war years, the Association requested the Commission to prepare

such a report comparing the imports of the pre-war year 1939, with imports based on preliminary statistics for the year 1945.

The following tables show the fishery products imported for U. S. consumption by kinds and by principal sources and both quantities and values are stated in thousands of pounds and thousands of dollars:

FISH PACKED IN AIRTIGHT CONTAINERS, NOT IN OIL

Product and country	Quantity 1,000 pounds	Value 1,000 dollars
HERRING AND SARDINES		
1939, total	9,877	906
Norway	8,085	710
United Kingdom	907	97
Sweden	484	69
Other countries	401	30
1945, total	1,575	354
Canada	1,206	421
Iceland	248	100
Newfoundland	60	22
Other countries	61	11

FISH CAKES, BALLS AND PUDDINGS

1939, total	1,539	120
Norway	1,038	70
Japan	470	47
Iceland	14	1
Other countries	17	2
1945, total	284	77
Iceland	272	75
Canada	12	2

OTHER FISH NOT IN OIL¹

1939, total	1,071	162
Japan	540	97
Norway	251	24
China	134	21
Other countries	146	20
1945, total	1,546	328
Canada	947	135
Chile	313	96
Newfoundland	260	81
Other countries	26	16

ANCHOVIES

1939, total	2,050	212
Spain	1,413	146
Argentina	203	17
Sweden	176	20
Other countries	258	29
1945, total	989	265
Spain	980	263
Portugal	9	2

SALMON

1939, total	928	81
Canada	577	35
Japan	350	45
Other countries	1	1
1945, total	168	64
Newfoundland	102	43
Canada	66	21

FISH PACKED IN OIL OR IN OIL AND OTHER SUBSTANCES

Product and country	Quantity 1,000 pounds	Value 1,000 dollars
SARDINES		
1939, total	31,637	4,663
Norway	23,730	3,374
Portugal	6,050	962
Sweden	468	88
Other countries	1,429	239
1945, total	4,034	2,416
Portugal	2,250	1,429
Venezuela	1,180	566
Spain	438	333
Other countries	166	88

Product and country	Quantity 1,000 pounds	Value 1,000 dollars
TUNA		
1939, total	10,126	1,609
Japan	7,764	1,314
Philippine Islands ²	991	178
British Malaya	716	102
Other countries	655	75
1945, total	5,252	2,042
Portugal	2,248	993
Peru	2,168	611
Chile	366	190
Other countries	470	248

OTHER FISH IN OIL¹		
1939, total	377	67
China	132	20
Norway	90	12
Japan	43	12
Other countries	112	23
1945, total	283	84
Canada	194	68
Peru	89	16

ANCHOVIES		
1939, total	2,449	878
Italy	1,697	668
Portugal	616	162
Spain	64	19
Other countries	72	29
1945, total	6,987	5,769
Portugal	6,381	5,308
Spain	513	384
Chile	93	77
Other countries	1	1

ANTIPASTO		
1939, total	228	83
Italy	227	83
Other countries	1	1
1945, total	167	106
Portugal	95	63
Uruguay	49	27
Argentina	23	16

¹ Does not include shellfish, caviar and other fish roe. ² Duty free. ³ Less than 500.

C. M. I. Appoints Miss Sabine

Harriet W. Sabine has been appointed Director of Consumer Information for the Can Manufacturers Institute, New York, N. Y. Miss Sabine will devote a large portion of her time to radio "tours" for the Institute as a part of its promotion program on canned foods.

Michigan Canner Returns

After an absence of three and one-half years in the armed services, Robert L. Hutchinson has returned to his position in the sales office of the Michigan Fruit Canners, Inc., Fennville, Mich.

Profit and Loss Study Will Be Made Again by OPA and USDA

In the next few days a number of canners will receive letters from Charles B. Carry, Head of the Processed Fruits and Vegetables Section of the Office of Price Administration, stating that the policy of OPA requires that an accounting study be made of the operations and financial conditions of the industry during 1945.

The profit and loss study will have no effect on the pricing regulations governing the 1946 pack of fruits and vegetables which incidentally are soon to be released. There is no intention to make an industry wide unit cost survey and in most cases all that is needed is a profit and loss statement and a balance sheet, OPA states. However, OPA aims to separate the canning, freeing and other major departments of the companies in the sample, so that those companies which do more than canning will have a little more difficulty furnishing the information than those that do only canning.

In a few areas OPA also desires cost data for specific items which canners have claimed are not equitably priced. In these areas the costs will be picked up on basic items. The cost study will be limited to specific areas and most companies in other areas will not be asked to give cost figures.

In addition, however, the U. S. Department of Agriculture has asked for some additional cost information on some items but again this will not affect the majority of the companies in the sample.

Food Processors Statistics Subcommittee Holds Meeting

The Subcommittee on Food Processors Statistics of the Advisory Committee on Government Questionnaires held its initial meeting in Washington, D. C., on April 26. The Advisory Committee, which is sponsored by seven large national organizations, is entirely independent of any government agency and provides businessmen with an opportunity to help solve reporting problems and to make suggestions regarding the simplification and improvement of Federal reporting forms.

The April 26 meeting which was called to discuss canner pack and stock reports and wholesaler stock reports was attended by representatives of various trade groups. Canner representatives in attendance were L. A. Taylor, Empire State Pickling Co., and Chairman of the N.C.A. Statistics Committee; J. I. Smith, Esmeralda Canning Co.,

and H. Otto, H. J. Heinz Co. Association Secretary Carlos Campbell and Eldon E. Shaw, N.C.A. Director of Statistics, also attended.

The discussion brought out the large number of reports requested by government agencies, the duplication of effort, and stressed the necessity for prompt issuance of stocks if they are to be of current value to individuals within the industry.

After thorough discussion it was decided that each industry group would decide what was desired by their members and that the subcommittee would meet again to reconcile any differences. The N.C.A. is now preparing to find out from the industry what commodity pack and stock reports are desired and how frequently needed.

No Increases in Sugar to Be Made This Year, CFB States

Canners will not receive any increases in sugar at least during 1946 if available supplies do not exceed the estimates contained in the 1946 sugar allocation recommended by recent action of the Combined Food Board. The

CFB states that 11,809,000 short tons of sugar (raw value) may be expected to be available for world allocation in 1946 within the areas under its purview, as compared with 12,270,000 tons in 1945. All available exportable supplies have been taken into consideration as well as the production of all claimant countries, the Board said.

Of the total allocation, the United States will receive 5,443,000 short tons of sugar for household and industrial uses for the remainder of the year. Military requirements of 228,000 tons and minor exports of 50,000 tons bring total U. S. requirements to 5,711,000 tons.

Cuba's Sugar Forecast Smaller

Cuba's sugar production for 1946 is now placed at 4,600,000 short tons, 4 percent less than an earlier forecast of 4,800,000 tons, but 18 percent larger than the 3,900,000 in 1945, the U. S. Department of Agriculture reported this week. The reduced forecast is a result of continued dry weather from November until early April. Rainfall during this period averaged about 1.5 inches, compared with a normal of about 2.0 inches.

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